

## LOUDON PARK NATIONAL CEMETERY.

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JUNE 15, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. GRIFFIN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8272.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8272) providing for the extension of Loudon Park National Cemetery, near Baltimore, Md., having had the same under consideration, would respectfully report thereon as follows:

It appears from a report and papers accompanying the same made October 25, 1897, by Lient. Col. C. F. Humphrey, deputy quartermaster-general, to the Quartermaster-General of the United States Army, that the Loudon Park National Cemetery, located near the city of Baltimore, Md., has an area of  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acres; that on the date mentioned the interments therein numbered 2,774; that the available burial space, without further encroaching upon the lawn on which the rostrum and principal monuments are located, is sufficient for about 165 interments; that the annual burials average about 60; hence, excepting the lawn referred to, the space for future burials will meet the requirements for only about thirty months. In view of this showing it is apparent that an extension of this cemetery can not long be deferred unless other provision be made for the interment of ex-Union soldiers dying in the vicinity of Baltimore and at the military post of Fort McHenry, on the Patapsco River, near said city.

The Baltimore City Cemetery adjoins the national cemetery on the south and west. It has been ascertained that there are six parcels of land adjacent to the national cemetery which the Government can acquire as an addition to the national cemetery, to be used for cemetery purposes. These are indicated by the letters A, B, B, and the figures 1, 2, and 3 on the blue print accompanying this report.

The parcels A and B B are owned by the Loudon Park Incorporated Cemetery Company. Plats 1, 2, and 3 on the blue print are owned by the estate of William F. Primrose. Parcel A, at the southwest corner of the national cemetery, has an average length of 125.7 feet and an average width of 26.3 feet, and contains 3,287 square feet. This is

especially desirable, as, aside from the space it will provide for interments, it will straighten the boundaries of the national cemetery.

The two strips B B extend from the Frederick turnpike to the south line of the cemetery, except as they are separated by Stafford street, which is a blind street 33 feet in width, belonging to the city of Baltimore, and could be closed to the eastern line of plat 1 by action of the city authorities.

The northern one of the two strips B B is 13 feet 10 inches wide on the Frederick turnpike and 330 feet in length to said Stafford street. The southern strip B is of the same width as the northern one, and extends 273 feet 9 inches southerly from said Stafford street. These two strips correspond with the front of, and are parallel with, the eastern inclosing wall of the national cemetery, and contain about 8,352 square feet. Parcel 1 is 44 feet in width, and the north end thereof abutting on Frederick turnpike would, with the strip B situated west of it, add 57 feet 10 inches to the frontage of the national cemetery on the Frederick turnpike. Parcel 1 extends southerly to said Stafford street 330 feet, and parcels 2 and 3 extend from said street 273 feet 9 inches to the southerly line of the national cemetery extended eastward. Parcel 2 is 74 feet 10 inches, and 3 is 88 feet and 8 inches in width. Plats 1, 2, and 3 contain 59,278 square feet, making a total aggregate of the six parcels mentioned about 70,917 square feet of vacant land available for cemetery uses, and are nearly all level and conform very closely to the grade of the burial sections of the cemetery.

A proposition, dated October 20, 1897, made to the Quartermaster's Department by the Loudon Park Cemetery Company, contains an offer to sell the three parcels designated as A and BB for the following amounts: A for \$800 and the two parcels BB for \$1,000. In the same proposition the executor of the Primrose estate offers the three tracts, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, for \$6,500 net, making a total aggregate in cost for the land proper \$8,300.

The most feasible way of extending the cemetery is eastward by the purchase of the parcels BB and Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and in fact any considerable extension of the national cemetery makes the purchase of these tracts almost indispensable.

Another consideration is found in the fact that the two propositions for the six parcels described are interdependent. From an estimate made and submitted by the Quartermaster-General's Department, an extension of the cemetery in the manner herein indicated will involve expenditures as follows, viz:

For removal and reconstruction of 630 feet of rubble-stone wall, at \$2.60 per foot .....	\$1, 638
For construction of 116 feet of new rubble-stone wall with coping, at \$4.75 per foot .....	551
For construction of 360 feet of rubble-stone wall with coping and railing, at \$6.20 per foot .....	2, 232
For grading, seeding, planting, and otherwise improving the grounds .....	2, 000
Estimated cost of improvements .....	6, 421
Cost of land .....	8, 300
Total cost of land and improvements .....	14, 721

The necessity for and desirability of acquiring the tracts of land indicated for the purpose stated being apparent, the only remaining question is as to the reasonableness of the prices named in the proposition of the cemetery company and the Primrose estate.

Estimates of value made by those acquainted with the ruling prices

of real estate in the city of Baltimore, and who are also familiar with the location, condition, and situation of the several parcels of land described and their value, place it higher than the prices fixed in the proposition for their sale made to the Quartermaster's Department. When acquired, the necessity for improving the premises so as to make them correspond with the present national cemetery is also important. The larger portion of such cost will be involved in the removal and rebuilding of the cemetery wall and its necessary extension to completely inclose the additional ground.

Your committee is of the opinion that the prices named in the proposition are reasonable, and that the lands ought to be acquired while the ownerships remain where they now are, and therefore recommend that the bill do pass.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

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